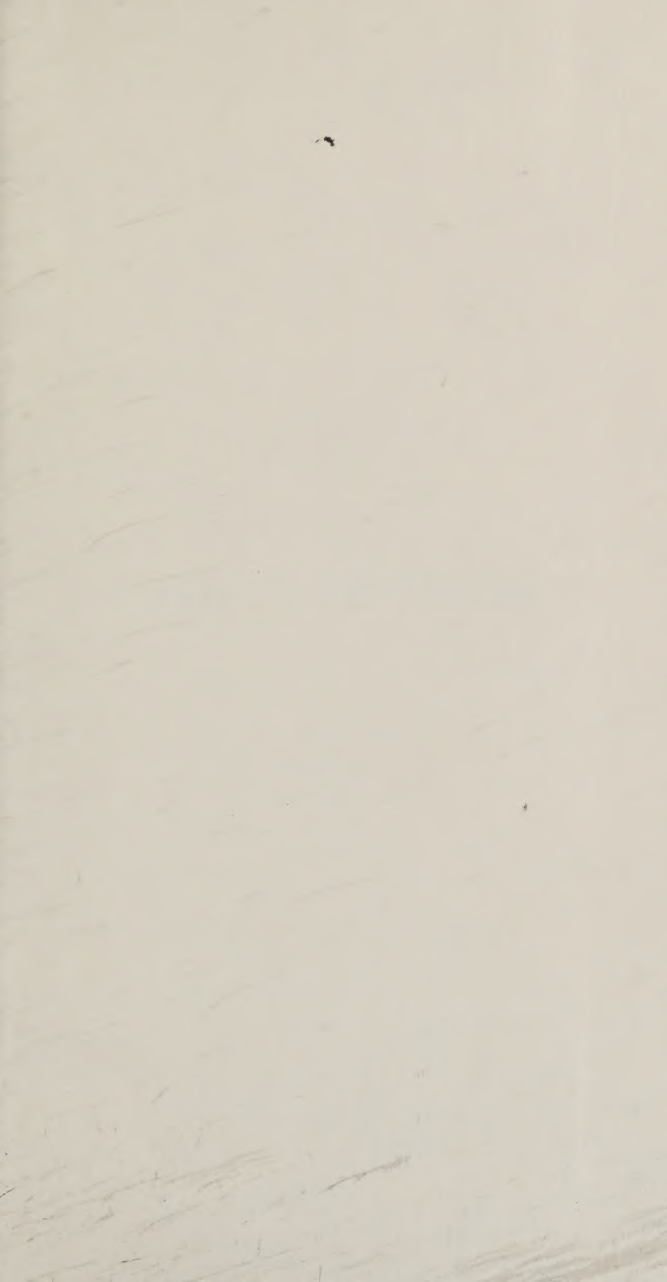


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A POET'S PROVERBS



# A POET'S PROVERBS

BEING MIRTHFUL, SOBER,  
AND FANCIFUL EPIGRAMS ON  
THE UNIVERSE, WITH CER-  
TAIN OLD IRISH PROVERBS,  
ALL IN RHYMED COUPLETS

BY

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

AUTHOR OF "CHIPS OF JADE"



NEW YORK

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681 FIFTH AVENUE



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## FRIENDS AND PHILOSOPHERS!

**F**OR we be all philosophers together,  
viewing this varied world and ponder-  
ing its antic ways. And since, even like  
unto yourselves, I have spent long nights  
and days under both sky and rooftree, ex-  
periencing many things, reading many  
books and thinking deeply or lightly upon  
all, it may be thought seemly that I place  
before ye, my compeers, the fruit of my  
reflections, even that ye may match them  
with your own for confirmation or dissent.  
Wherefore, marshaling my host of fancies  
and convictions—whether they be all my  
own or whether drafted from the thought-  
realms of keener-witted sages of long ago  
—I range them before ye 'dressed out in  
measured couplets; for I do write in rhyme  
and meter, such being my nature.



# A POET'S PROVERBS

## OF COURTESY

IF you are Good, for Goodness' Sake be  
grateful  
And mind your Manners!—Don't make  
Virtue hateful.



THE Porcupine, whom one must Handle,  
gloved,  
May be Respected, but is never Loved.



GOOD Manners may in Seven Words be  
found:  
Forget Yourself and think of Those  
Around.



THE gruff Rhinoceros is Armor-clad;  
He needs to be—his Temper is so Bad.



✓  
OF TACT

DON'T tell your Friends about your Indigestion:

"How are you!" is a Greeting, not a Question.



THE Kindly may be Nuisances and Bores;  
A Saint who Snores means well, but still  
he Snores!



AN Enemy he made through Scorn to  
spend  
The Courtesy that would have made a  
Friend.



WHEN you strive for the Place  
That you feel the World owes,  
Look the World in the Face,  
But don't pull the World's Nose!

OF APPAREL

PRIDE plumed the Courtier's Hat; and  
Pride designed  
The Woodman's Coonskin Cap with Tail  
behind.



YOU need not dress by Fashion's Last  
Decree,  
But don't have Pins where Buttons ought  
to be.



ONLY the Proven Man of Worth and  
Note  
Can well afford to wear a Shabby Coat.



YOUR Clothes if hung up carefully, will  
wear  
Much better than if flung upon a Chair.



No Weather is Bad  
When you're Suitably Clad.

## OF FRIENDSHIP

✓ **S**HOW Love to those you love, lest Love  
should fail;

Let not the Long Grass grow on Friend-  
ship's Trail.



**S**OME Hearts resemble Little Pools that  
are

Just large enough to mirror One Dear Star.



**N**EVER needlessly offend;  
Lose no Chance to Make a Friend.



**T**HE Truest Mirrors Fortune sends  
Are Honest Eyes of Faithful Friends.



**O**LD Friends are best; yet, as the Swift  
Years run,  
Make New Ones, too, or Time may leave  
you None.

OF NEIGHBORLINESS

IN Grief or Happiness, in Strife or Labor,  
There is no Man but sometime needs  
his Neighbor.



YOU know your Neighbor's Wish beyond  
a doubt;  
His Hedge, however low, means, "Please  
Keep Out!"



LOVE your Neighbor, yet Respect him,  
too;  
Don't pull down the Fence 'twixt him and  
you.



SEEK brands at Neighbor-hearths; yet be  
not prone  
To linger. Light a Hearth Fire of your  
own!



FAVORS that we beg and pray for  
Cost us more than those we pay for.

## OF BUILDINGS

A HOUSE begins to be a Ruin, when  
A Fallen Tile is not put back again.



A GROWTH of Ivy beautifies a Wall;  
An Overgrowth will make the Coping  
fall.



THE Storm abates where Walls are  
Weatherproof;  
The Deluge pours upon the Leaky Roof.



To Build the House may not be your  
Affair,  
But you can Keep the House in Good  
Repair.



DRAW Good from Ill: In Days of Storm  
A House of Snow will keep you warm.

OF PROGRESS

NO True Reform has ever come to pass  
Unchallenged by a Lion and an Ass.



SAY not the Future must be like the Past,  
Unless you know how long the World  
will last.



RULES, like Men, to Time must bow;  
Then was Then, but Now is Now.



THE Past's a Book wherein some Truths  
are found,  
But not a Chain by which Men's Feet are  
bound.



KEEP out of Ruts; a Rut is something  
which,  
If traveled in too much, becomes a Ditch.

## OF SEASONS

UNWELCOME Winter, that old Reprobate,  
Is aways Early; Spring is always Late.



SPRING, knowing that her Reign is all-too-  
brief,  
Hurries the Blossom out before the Leaf.



OAK Leaf and Squirrel's Foot, our Wood-  
men claim,  
On May the Tenth should measure just the  
same.



SWEET is the Summer Day; and full of  
Song  
And Cheer the Winter Night; and both are  
Long.



THE Maple Leaf and Summer Butterfly,  
How lovely are they just before they  
die!



OF STARS

A DAILY Ride Earth gives to everyone,  
And every Year a Trip around the Sun.



THE Sun's Great Beacon gives the Planets  
Day;  
A Firefly's Lantern lights a Firefly's Way.



THE Daily Tasks may seem imprisoning  
Bars;  
But every Night your Thoughts may range  
the Stars.



DARK are the Spheres that only Drink the  
Light;  
The Moons that Take and Give alone are  
Bright.



SKYWARD we turn, like Children loving  
best  
The Story that is told us Oftenest.

## OF CHEERINESS

UMBRELLAS that are up when Days are  
    'duller,  
Instead of being Dark should glow with  
    Color.



IN Pleasant Houses Cheerfulness abides;  
    The Trout in Sunny Pools have Silver  
    Sides.



FEW Pleasant Visitors are theirs  
    Who have no Comfortable Chairs.



IF all the World looks drear, perhaps the  
    meaning  
Is that your Windows need a little Clean-  
    ing.



MY Room shall be an Easy Room to Chat  
    In,  
With Chairs that look as if they had been  
    Sat In.

OF FLOWERS AND BEES

WHILE Honey lies in Every Flower, no  
doubt,  
It takes a Bee to get the Honey out.



THE Daisy is a Weed of little Worth—  
Save that it makes a Dearer Place of  
Earth.



No Dearth of Roses honest Bumble  
pleads,  
But draws Some Sort of Honey out of  
Weeds.



FOR each pure Rose  
That now the Bush adorns,  
The patient Gardener knows  
A Hundred Thorns.

## OF WOMEN

GIVE Womanhood and Childhood both  
their Due;  
The Lioness and Cubs are Lions, too.



"Too little Closet Room!" cries Eve, and  
frowns;  
For Adam says, "Too many Frocks and  
Gowns!"



"No, I can't sew," she said, "or cook a  
bit!"  
And, strange to tell, the Girl was Proud  
of it!



IN Courtship, so the Saying goes,  
One "Yes" will mend a Hundred  
"Noes."



"GROW tall!" the Rabbis said in Days that  
Were,  
"But if thy Wife be little, stoop to her."

---

OF CLEANLINESS

AT Cleaning Time with Proud or Mean  
The Woman with the Broom is Queen.



To Clean the House with Broom and  
Clout  
You need not turn it Inside Out.



LIKE old accustomed Spots upon the Wall,  
Familiar Faults seem hardly Faults at  
all.



YOUR Written Letter speaks for You to  
Me;  
Then have it Clean and Bright as You  
would be.



WHERE Dirt remains, though hid behind a  
Screen,  
No Room or Heart is wholesome. Sweep  
it Clean!

**OF ASPIRATION**

THE Mudfish scolds the Flying Fish for  
Flying—  
A Thing no Honest Mudfish dreams of  
trying.



A GOLDEN Dream was sent to Dreamers  
Two:  
One scorned the Dream, the other made it  
True.



MIND your Mark! But, make or break,  
Mind what Mark you mean to make.



GOD's Road is all Uphill,  
But do not tire;  
Rejoice that we may still  
Keep Climbing Higher.

OF SPORT

IN Life as in Football  
Fall Forward when you fall.



THE Dust is often in the Face  
Of him who learns to Win the Race.



IF I can't make the Goal, I pick my Man  
And pass the Ball to Someone Else who  
Can.



NO Race is Won or Lost  
Before the Line is crossed.



HE may not score, and yet he helps to Win  
Who makes the Hit that brings the Run-  
ner in.



## OF SPORTSMANSHIP

YOU lost? Enough. Don't try  
To tell the Victor "why."



YOUR own Good Faith must be your  
chiefest Care;  
No matter what Some Others do—Play  
Fair!



ONE Loser said the Race was wrongly run;  
The Other laughed and tried again and  
won.



PUT down the Gun; restrain the Ruthless  
Mood;  
A Dead Bird sings no Song and rears no  
Brood.



LEND a Hand to 'drag the Sled uphill;  
Earn your Right to know the Coaster's  
Thrill.

OF PACKS AND BURDENS

ALL the Way Outward and all the Way  
Back,  
Leading or Following, Carry your Pack!



MAKE fast the Pack upon your Shoulders  
rightly;  
For Heavy Burdens may be carried  
Lightly.



FOR Woodland Trail and Mountain  
Height  
Let Feet and Heart and Pack be light.



BELoved by all is he that freely shares  
With other Men his Pleasures and their  
Cares.



WHO takes upon his Back without a Groan  
Another's Trouble, pushes off His own.

## OF HILLS

COME, breast the Slope and leave the  
grassy Vale!

The Joy of Life is on the Upward Trail.



THE Hill, so Steep when viewed from far  
below,

Becomes an Easy Slope as up you go.



NO matter how the Hilltop Road may tire,  
'Tis better than the Shortcut through the  
Mire.



FOR Age, the Road that threads the Vale;  
But Youth should take the Sky-line  
Trail.



MEN love the Hills, because, like Men,  
They rise  
Compact of Earth, but reaching toward the  
Skies.

## OF TRAILS AND ROADS

BLAZE the Trail, young Pioneer!  
Those to Come will tread it clear.



GOOD Company and not too great a Load,  
And what care I how long may be the  
Road!



THE Woods where Hunting never fails  
Are rarely reached by easy Trails.



NOR lone nor sad is he who walks all day  
With Pleasant Thoughts for Comrades  
on the Way.



TO taste how good it is to be alive,  
Be up and on a Hillward Trail at Five.

## OF TRAILS AND ROADS

KEEP the Old Trail well in Sight  
Till you know the New is Right.



WHEN Mists around the Mountain  
wreath a Veil,  
Don't go Exploring—keep the Well-  
marked Trail.



THE Trail that winds among the Dark-  
ened Trees  
You cannot see? Then follow Him who  
Sees.



WALK not the Errant Path; the Broad-  
ening Way  
You tread will lead Young Wanderers  
astray.



NO Path can give Delight  
To him whose Shoes are Tight.

OF CAMPS

WOULD you know the Forest's Deeper  
Joys?  
Camp beneath the Stars that make no  
Noise.



USE little Chips and Twigs to start the  
Fire  
And Great Logs only when the Flame  
leaps higher.



THE Camper-out who hopes to have his  
Share  
Of Sleep at Night, should make his Bed  
with Care.



THE Faithful Lover of the Woods re-  
members  
To clean his Camp and quench the Camp-  
fire's Embers.



BEFORE you leave the Camp that gave you  
Rest,  
Pile up more Wood to warm the Coming  
Guest.

## OF BROOKS

NO Wanderer of Wood or Mountainside  
Was ever lost who kept a Brook as  
Guide.



ACTIVE minds that think and study,  
Like Swift Brooks are seldom Muddy.



THE Brook though changing Water, Bed,  
and Course,  
Is still That Brook; it cannot change its  
Source.



UNVEXED by Dust or Jar of Wheels or  
Hooves,  
A River is a Silver Road that moves.



A BROOK will guide you up the Wildest  
Glen;  
The Friendly Brook will lead you Home  
again.



OF STREAMS AND SPRINGS

STREAMS tear the Hills; the Sea invades  
the Sand;  
All Water wages endless War on Land.



THOUGH well you Row, the River, ever  
flowing,  
Will bear you back unless you Keep On  
Rowing.



DOWN the Stream he poled the Raft;  
All the little Fishes laughed.



THE Day is drear with Rain? Remember,  
then,  
The Parched-up Spring that shall be full  
again.



WHEN you have dipped your Cup, remembering  
That other Trailsmen thirst, Respect the  
Spring.

## OF OUTDOORS

WHEN Stress of Storm the Lake's broad  
    Bosom mars,  
The quiet little Pool reflects the Stars.



IN what are Deserts now, clear Eyes may  
    see  
The Fruitful Fields of Days that Are to  
    Be.



TO live as free as Air and yet not lack  
    The Simpler Comforts, foot it with a  
    Pack.



OF all Fair Scenes the World holds none  
    more good  
Than laughing Stream and greenly waving  
    Wood.  
Of all Sad Scenes what sadder can there be  
Than drought-parched River-bed and  
    flame-charred Tree!

OF FAIR DELIGHTS

THE Stars and all the Flowers that sleep  
below them  
Are theirs who learn to Name them and  
to Know them.



A BIRCH-BARK Basket may be fair to see,  
But just to make one do not Spoil a  
Tree.



ENJOY the Road. The Best is lost to  
those  
Who hurry blindly toward the Journey's  
Close.



IT is the Bough you did not break last  
Spring  
That now delights your Soul with Blossom-  
ing.  
The Gentians that you left beside the Wall  
Are those whose Blue will gladden you this  
Fall.

**OF ANGLERS**

THE skillful Caster never singles out  
The Fly he likes, but that which suits the  
Trout.



KEEP cool and ravel out your Fishing  
Line;  
Impatience multiplies each Knot by Nine.



YOU Fished; but he that Paddled the  
Canoe  
Did as much to Catch the Trout as you.



TRY the Brook that none esteem;  
Do not fish the Famous Stream.



BY Threats the Bully wins few Partisans,  
For Fish are rarely caught in Frying  
Pans.

OF FISH

HE wins Few Fish with Rod or Net  
Who fears to get his Clothing wet.



PERHAPS you lost the Trout, but why  
regret it?  
You Hooked and Played it, if you didn't  
Net it.



"THE Folks on Land are Dumb," the Fish  
'declare;  
"How can they speak?—their Mouths are  
full of Air!"



THE Cheapest Fish were those you  
Bought;  
The Sweetest Fish were those you Caught.



How generous is Ocean! Who can match  
His Gift of all the Fish that you can  
Catch?

## OF HORSES

THEY use the Whip, the Horse complains,  
Who lack the Sense to use the Reins.



BOTH Men and Horses pull their best  
Not Tandem-hitched, but All-abreast.



No Ragged Saddle can 'disgrace  
The Thoroughbred who wins the Race.



THE Rider in the Saddle picks the Way;  
And he that Mounts Behind has Naught  
to say.



RESPONSIBILITY is Spur or Bridle;  
It drives the Vigorous, but checks the  
Idle.

OF CERTAIN QUADRUPEDS

THE Puppy whimpers, "Oh, this World of  
Woes!"

Because the Kitten scratched his little  
Nose.



YOU'RE Busy? Chipmunks darting in and  
out

The Wall are Busy, too—but what about?



FROM Beavers, Bees should learn to mend  
their Ways;

A Bee just Works; a Beaver Works and  
Plays.



THE Prairie Dog, alert for Fancied  
Harms,

Is chiefly busy sounding False Alarms.



THE Sheep Dog does not waste his Teeth  
in Fighting,

But saves them for a Wolf who may need  
Biting.

## OF CERTAIN BIRDS

THE Hawk with Envy sees the Otter  
swim,  
Not dreaming how the Otter envies him.



IN zeal to Run, forgetting how to Fly,  
The Ostrich gained the Earth, but lost  
the Sky.



CHANGEFUL as Men, at times the Gulls  
forsake  
The Sea to wheel above the Mountain  
Lake.



"YOUR Song," the Catbird jeered, "is poor  
in Tone!"  
"But still," returned the Wren, "*my* Song's  
my own!"



NO Talent comes Full-fledged: From  
Birdland winging,  
The Birds, before their Concerts, Practice  
Singing.



OF MERCHANTS

‘WHAT makes a Merchant, Man of  
Trade?’

‘Not Selling Wares, but Getting Paid!’



IN Business be Exact; 'tis better thus;  
In Friendship you may then be Gener-  
ous.



THE Brave old Merchant shipped all  
Sorts  
Of Merchandise and tried All Ports.



NOT All his Stock the Merchant's Window  
shows;  
One should not make Display of All he  
knows.



HE traveled ill who, praising Naught, ex-  
pands  
On What-he-didn't-like in Other Lands.

## OF VOYAGERS

ADVENTURERS who dare not sail their  
Ships  
Till Wind and Tide are fair, will make  
Few Trips.



"MIND the Helm or Rock!" the Whirl-  
pool chuckles.  
Hark to Reason or she'll Rap your  
Knuckles.



HE finds not any Good in any sort  
Of Wind, who does not steer for any  
Port.



WHEN Wind and Water come to Grips  
Their Wrath is wreaked upon the Ships.



THE Seasoned Traveler shuns the Horse  
that Stumbles,  
The Bed that Creaks, the Table-mate who  
Grumbles.

OF SAILORS

SAILOR bold, be not too bold;  
The Ship is Young, the Sea is Old.



THAT Pilot has a Load of Blame to bear  
Who ran upon the Rocks he knew were  
there.



SMALL skill is gained by those who cling  
to Ease;  
The Able Sailor hails from Stormy Seas.



YOU cannot Row and Bail to keep afloat;  
Then stop the Leak or build a Better  
Boat.



TO Steer his Course the Sailor scans the  
Stars,  
Yet 'does not fail to see the Rocks and  
Bars.

## OF HUMAN PHENOMENA

WHERE Eager Talkers form the Major  
Faction,  
A Listener finds himself the Chief Attraction.



AN Idol Worshipper is he, no less,  
Who sacrifices Truth to Cleverness.



WHICH is it brings the Archer Fame—  
His Bow, his Arrows, or his Aim?



HE that's call'd the Fearless One  
Oft is he that Feared to Run.



FORTUNE's Favors can be cruel;  
Fires are choked by Too Much Fuel.

OF ANGER

THOUGH just be your Anger, restrain it,  
my Brother;  
Why punish Yourself for the Fault of  
Another?



BECAUSE a Donkey takes a whim  
To Bray at You, why Bray at Him?



THAT Scamp the Jay proclaims in Rage  
and Grief  
That Tail-in-Air the Squirrel is a Thief!



THE angry Brawler's Wordy Bluster  
shows  
His Foe precisely where to plant his Blows.



A JEST, unduly pushed, becomes no Jest;  
Remember always, too far East is West.

## OF WRATH

As Ruffled Lakes distort whatever kinds  
Of things they mirror, so do Ruffled  
Minds.



ANGER drives away the Peace of Men;  
Pleasant Laughter calls it back again.



HOLD your Wrath One Moment brief  
Save a Hundred Days of Grief.



I TOOK Revenge, for I had suffered long,  
And my small Right became enormous  
Wrong.



YOU'RE sure that you are Right? How  
fine and strong!  
But were you never just as Sure—and  
Wrong?

OF QUARRELS

WHEN Eagles fight with raging hearts,  
The Arrowmaker plumes his Darts.



THOUGH Jay and Squirrel wrangle, neither  
can  
Remember When and How the Feud  
began.



No Quarrel ever stirred  
Before the Second Word.



ADJUSTING Quarrels proves Good Will;  
Preventing them is nobler still.



A SLANDER counts by Threes its victims,  
who  
Are Speaker, Spoken Of, and Spoken To.

## OF EVIL-SPEAKING

THOUGH Speaking Ill of All, the Gossiper  
Could never dream that All Speak Ill of  
Her.



WHO answers Evil Speaking with a Flood  
Of Evil Speech, would wash off Dirt  
with Mud.



IF Dogs will bark,  
You need not hark.



BELITTLING Work that Others do  
Will gain no Praise nor Prize for you.



FAR easier it is to See and State  
That Lines are Crooked than to Draw  
them Straight.



OF JUDGMENTS

BEFORE you Criticize with Words Unkind,  
Look Thrice for all the Good that you  
can find.



THE Stones that Critics hurl with Harsh  
Intent  
A Man may use to build his Monument.



BEFORE the Singing Thrush the Donkey  
brays  
And begs for Criticism, seeking Praise.



WHO praised the Bad work falsely, is the  
one  
To blame for Future Work as badly done.



THE Verdict must be nearly Right  
That pleases Neither Party—quite.

## OF WORDS

THE Words of the Wisest and Wittiest  
Men  
Like Thunder are echoed again and again.



WHATEVER—Deep or Shallow, New or  
Old—  
Is clearly Thought, can be as clearly Told.



YOU said the Needed Word? Be glad  
you said it,  
No matter if Another gets the Credit.



THE Young will talk of Work Begun,  
The Old may talk of Work Put  
Through;  
The Tongues of Fools and Idlers run  
On what they Have a Mind to Do.

OF TALK

MEN talk in Business Hours and Time of  
Leisure  
For Gain, for Use—but Most for their  
Own Pleasure.



How eloquent the Orator  
Who says Enough—and Nothing More!



SPEAK quietly, however great the Matter;  
Loud Talking makes Wise Truth seem  
Idle Chatter.



YOU like to Tell it; is it clear  
That Others, too, would like to Hear?



THAT Words are like Sunbeams all Speak-  
ers should learn:  
The more you Condense them the Deeper  
they Burn.

## OF SECRETS

THE Secret's safe from Friend and Foe  
That you let No One know you know.



WALLS have Ears; but no one cares  
Unless a Tongue is also theirs.



WHAT Greedy Ears receive, Loose  
Tongues betray;  
But no one can Repeat what you Don't  
Say.



IT was your Secret, yet you couldn't hold  
it!  
And will he keep it, then, to whom you  
told it?



IF, when done, you'd wish none knew it,  
Don't do it!

---

OF ARGUMENT

HE argues best who never girds,  
But puts Hard Facts in clear, Soft  
Words.



IT helps alike both Him and You  
To get Another's Point of View.



ONE Lying Argument may wreck your  
Plea,  
However Strong in Truth your Cause may  
be.



THE Talker used his Eloquence amiss  
Who argued scrambling down the Preci-  
pice.



HE knows the Truest Way to Teach  
Who puts Great Thoughts in Simple  
Speech.

## OF BRAGGING

THE Car that has the Greater Speed will  
Show it,  
And that which has the Louder Horn will  
Blow it.



WHO brags about his Faults, no doubt  
Has little else to brag about.



DON'T Praise yourself, lest others Doubt  
and Grieve you;  
Yet don't Dispraise yourself—they might  
Believe you.



OF all his Race, the Meanest One  
Bragg most of what his Race has done.



IT does not ease a Luckless One's Distress  
To hear you brag about your own Success.

OF BOASTERS

EMPTY are Bandboxes, Demijohns,  
Shelves,  
Houses and Men that are Full of Them-  
selves.



WHO loves too much his own Small  
Candle's light,  
Knows not the Stars that glorify the Night.



THOUGH Pens have other Views, the Blot-  
ters think  
That Ink was made for Blotter Pads to  
drink.



DON'T praise Yourself to People who  
May know the Folks next door to you.



THE booming, vainglorious Drum of the  
Partridge  
Advises the Hunter to slip in a Cartridge.

## OF CONCEIT

THE New-hatched Chick will gladly show  
Old Chanticleer the Way to Crow.



IN foolish Pride the Sparrow tried to  
stride  
Beside the Crane—and split himself in  
twain.



“I’M always Right!” the Mouse squeaked  
from the Fern.  
“Good!” thought the Owl. “Then you’re  
Too Smart to Learn.”



IF we saw Others as they see Themselves,  
The Hats of Men would all be Number  
Twelves.



UNTIL the Donkey tried to clear  
The Fence, he thought himself a Deer.



OF SELF-ESTEEM

SELF-SATISFACTION lights the Pigling's  
    Eye,  
Which proves the Pig not hard to satisfy.



"WHO'D ever fancy," mused the wise old  
    Frog,  
"That *I* was once a simple Pollywog!"



"WHAT Fruits," the Speaker jeered, "can  
    Science show?"  
And Science brought his Words by Radio.



BECAUSE the Well resounds, it does not  
    follow  
That it is Deep; it may be merely Hollow.



A FOLLY wrecks itself; so wherefore  
    trouble  
To use a Pin to prick a bursting Bubble?

## OF CAUTION

'TIS better Thrice to ask your way  
Than even Once to go astray.



TRUST not a Water strange to you  
Nor sign a Paper not read through.



To quit the River's Brink may please you  
ill;  
To quit the Bottom, though, is harder still.



PITCH not your Voice too high nor sing  
too strong,  
Or you may find it hard to end the Song.



DON'T seek Honey with a Bear  
And hope to get the Lion's Share.

OF TIMIDITY

DON'T throw too many Stones investi-  
gating  
The Thickness of the Ice; you'll spoil the  
Skating.



EXCESS of Caution may be indiscreet.  
Test not the River's Depth with Both  
your Feet.



A BOG is not the Place to Stop and Think;  
Trip fast across; who Hesitates may  
Sink.



IF swim you must, why seek to know  
What Fathoms Deep the Stream may  
flow?



THINK wisely, weighing Word and Fact,  
But never Think too much to Act.

## OF PERILS

THE Rapids whiten: Eyes, be quick and  
clear!

The Task is not to Paddle, but to Steer.



THE Spider spreads her Web; but Webs  
are Things

Not feared by Flies that rightly use their  
Wings.



IN Time of Shipwreck make it still your  
Aim

To Save; let others wrangle Whom to  
Blame.



HE who Fears to Suffer here,  
Suffers overmuch from Fear.



IN Doubt and Dread the Simple Soul may  
find

The straight, clear Path to which the  
Shrewd are blind.

OF PREPAREDNESS

UNMARKED the Day of Battle comes.  
More Guns—and fewer Fifes and  
Drums!



As Bees hive Sweets against cold Winter's  
Rage,  
Let Youth store Happy Memories for  
Age.



DON'T cross a River till you reach its  
Brim;  
Yet come prepared to Row or Wade or  
Swim.



THE bravest Watermen alive  
Should know the Depth before they  
Dive.



BEFORE you Camp, make sure the Ground  
is good;  
Before you start your Campfire, gather  
Wood.

## OF INDOMITABILITY

IF Opportunity has shut One Door,  
Resolve can open Thrice a Hundred  
More.



KNOW, Stumbler, though Surefoot may  
laugh in his Pride,  
Who Stumbles but Falls Not goes For-  
ward a Stride.



TRUE Success is that which makes  
Building Stones of Old Mistakes.



MISFORTUNE is a Wind that, rising  
higher,  
Blows out the Match but fans the Steady  
Fire.



EXPERIMENT with Many Things, until  
Through learning what Won't Work,  
you find what Will.

---

OF SELF-RELIANCE

FAST or slow, I'll reach the top!  
Birds that cannot Fly can Hop.



HOW Strong is he, who, Brave yet Unde-  
fiant,  
Admits Mistakes and still is Self-reliant!



IN Ocean's Depths where all is Darkest  
Night,  
Those Creatures see that learned to make  
their Light.



THE Bat, who cannot grow a Feather,  
Contrives to fly on Wings of Leather.



BE not a Limpet—a Dependent Thing  
That wants a Waveworn Rock on which  
to Cling.

## OF CHARACTER

WHEN Life holds keener Woe than Death  
can give,  
The Great Soul deems it Manlier to Live.



WHERE clean-cut Men are met  
A Promise is a Debt.



A CONFIDENCE from Everyone defend:  
Your Friend, too, has a Friend who has  
a Friend.



IN keeping your Appointments, better wait  
For Tardy Others, than Yourself be  
Late.



ALL are Sometimes what they Always  
should be;  
What they Sometimes are, they Always  
could be.



OF THRIFT

THE Chipmunk who in Autumn filled his  
Cell  
Can pass the hardest Winter fairly well.



ABUNDANCE comes not at your Beck.  
The Fowls must Scratch before they  
Peck.



WHEN Famine must be fed,  
Remember, Crumbs are Bread.



THE Squirrel has his Playtime in the  
Spring,  
And not when Nuts are Ripe for Garner-  
ing.



THREE Æons spent themselves to store  
with Power  
The Coal that keeps you warm a Single  
Hour.

## OF EXTRAVAGANCE

'TIS Cheap to build a Castle in the Air,  
But Costly keeping up a Dwelling there.



A HOBBY is a more expensive Steed  
Than any Horse of true Arabian breed.



HE lived too far beyond his Means  
Who Burned the Stalks to Cook the  
Beans.



BUY not what you Need Not, Inch nor  
Ell,  
Lest what you Need you may be forced to  
Sell.



IN buying Land or selling Water-cresses,  
The Dunce who Measures beats the  
Sage who Guesses.

OF IDLERS

AN Idler, like his Paper Knife, will run  
Through many Worthy Books, yet learn  
from None.



"IMPOSSIBLE"—Oh, Heart confess!—  
Is Man's Excuse for Laziness.



AN Idler's Chance in Life is like a  
Peach—  
Too Green, or Over-ripe, or Out of Reach.



THOUGH Idlers play at Working, Tasks  
repel them:  
It's Fun to Gather Nuts, but not to Shell  
them.



LATE to rise and late to rest  
Unfits a man to do his best.

## OF WORK

Do All that comes to Hand; the Work  
you deem  
Of least Account, the World may most  
esteem.



Too high you'll rate your Work when  
Ardor fires you;  
Too Low you'll rate your Work when  
Working tires you.



LIFE is but a Day, you say?  
True; but that's a Working Day!



THE Sweetest Rest rewards the Worker,  
who  
Completes the Task he did not wish to do.



THE best Reply to make to One  
Who gives an Order is, "It's done."

OF INDUSTRY

BOAST not, but Use the Lore of Life and  
Schools;  
The Workman is not paid for *Owning*  
Tools.



NOTHING underneath the Sun  
Merely Happens; Things are Done.



YOUR Knife will cut the Stick or else it  
won't.  
One Blade that Does outvalues Ten that  
Don't.



AMONG Good Workers, choose the one  
That's merry when the day is done.



UP and at it! Sleepyheads!  
Better wear out Shoes than Beds.

## OF DOING

THE One Poor Tool at Hand will Mend  
the Case,  
And not the Twenty "Somewhere 'Round  
the Place."



THAT Hour was never thrown away,  
Which, spent in Planning, saved a Day.



As you Hope to be Commended,  
Show no Work before 'tis Ended.



THE World may owe a Man a Living, yet  
He has to Prove it and Collect the Debt.



APPLAUSE for the Work of your Hand  
or your Pen  
Is only a Challenge to Do it Again.

---

OF ACTION

ACT first; then tell of Mountains cleft  
asunder;

The Lightning strikes before we hear the  
Thunder.



MISCHANCE will come to all; but, Swim  
or Sink,

The Wise Man never says, "I did not  
think."



MEN buy Success by giving up a Host  
Of Things they Want for what they  
Want the Most.



THEY that win at last, though often  
thrown,

For their Failures blame themselves alone.



To conquer Odds demands a Hero's Will;  
An Unbaked Codfish Ball can Charge  
Down-hill.

## OF ACHIEVEMENT

NAUGHTS are Nothings till our Pens  
Put in Strokes and make them Tens.



ABILITY will see the Chance and snatch it.  
Who has a match will find a Place to  
scratch it.



"SAID" a Stride ahead may run  
If close behind him pressed "Done."



LET me do Something; this I chiefly ask;  
For doing Nothing is the Harder Task.



WHO does one useful Thing you cannot  
do,  
For that alone 'deserves Respect from you.



OF SLACKNESS

HE rarely Hits the Mark or Wins the  
Game,  
Who says, "I Know I'll Miss!" while tak-  
ing Aim.



TO have No Reason for a thing, is one  
Good Reason why that thing should not  
be done.



"HAVE NOT" is poor indeed and meanly  
clad;  
But poorer still is plaintive "If I Had!"



WHILE Young he says, "I don't know  
yet."  
When Old he'll answer, "I forget!"



I PLOWED "Perhaps," I planted "If"  
therein.  
And sadly harvested "It Might Have  
Been."

## OF SKILL

IN every Art and Craft and Play  
He wins who learns the One Best Way.



THAT Carpenter is not the Best  
Who makes More Chips than all the  
Rest.



THE Able Fencer knows all Thrusts and  
Parries;  
The Best Canoe-man Paddles, Poles, and  
Carries.



HOW hard you Swing the Racket matters  
not  
Unless you also rightly Place the Shot.



A CHEERFUL Heart and well-trained  
Hand  
Will take a Man through any Land.

OF DISCIPLINE

THE Colt must mind the Bit, the Nail the  
Hammer;  
And even Kings obey the Laws of Gram-  
mar.



To try yourself for Strength and Self-  
Control,  
Deny yourself—and do not tell a Soul!



RENOUNCING present Pleasure counts for  
Gain,  
When present Pleasure carries future  
Pain.



WHERE Self-restraint is lacking, Order  
ceases.  
A Hoopless Barrel tumbles all to pieces.



“RAP! RAP!” the heavy Hammer told  
The Nail. “Your Business is to Hold.”

## OF ORDER

CLEAR up your Desk and Mind; for  
neither one  
Is Fit when cluttered up with Things half  
'done.



AN Hour spent for Order saves a Waste  
Of Hours lost in hunting Things Mis-  
placed.



'TIS well to make a Garden; but 'tis fitter  
To clear away the Rubbish Heaps and  
Litter.



THE Lazy Man, before his Task is 'done  
Will take a Dozen Steps in saving One.



THE Skillful Bowman and the Man of  
Action  
Aim high, allowing for the Earth's At-  
traction.

OF PERSISTENCE

TALENT made a poor Appearance  
Until he married Perseverance.



WHO waits on Fortune's Knock will rarely  
win;  
Who calls on Fortune, some day finds her  
in.



THE Colt in the Pasture can gallop all  
day,  
But what can he do in the Shafts of the  
Dray?



WHO takes one Stroke in turn at Every  
Tree,  
Fells None, however sharp his Ax may be.



ENTHUSIASM sets the Embers glowing,  
But only Work can keep the Fire going.

## OF EXCELLENCE

NOT him who Did the Thing Before the  
Rest  
The World rewards, but him who Does It  
Best.



THE Race Horse wins a Prize worth Ten  
of that  
The Pig receives for merely being Fat.



IF Errand-running be your Part,  
Raise Errand-running to an Art.



THE Difference 'twixt Art and Trade is  
plain:  
Art strives for Excellence and Trade for  
Gain.



To find in Life a Richer Zest  
Like Good Things well, but Fine Things  
best.

OF EDUCATION

BOTH Minds and Fountain Pens will work  
when willed,  
But Minds, like Fountain Pens, must first  
be Filled.



THE Dog is wise; and wiser still the Pup  
Perhaps will be, but not till he Grows  
Up.



THE Time and Way to Change is much to  
learn;  
The Hardest Part of Driving is to Turn.



FROM Diamond-Dust the Diamond Lustre  
gains,  
And Brains are polished bright by Other  
Brains.



TO Miracles of Science Pedants nod  
Assent, denying only those of God.

## OF KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING reads the Volume through;  
Wisdom comes and orders, "Do!"



"I THINK" and "I Am Sure" are ancient  
Foes.

He 'does not Know who 'does not *Know*  
he *Knows*.



THOUGH naught you learned from him,  
he learned from you;  
Then was he not the Wiser of the Two?



WHO learns another Language, wins com-  
mand  
Of all the Wisdom of another Land.



YOUR "Perfect Memory" will fail you,  
yet.  
My Memorandum Book can not forget.



OF LEARNING

THE Wise must seek the Dull, else Wisdom dies;  
For hardly will the Dull seek out the Wise.



WHO learns by Finding Out has sevenfold  
The Skill of him who learned by Being Told.



IN Easy Learning Germs of Failure lurk;  
He gains the Key to All who learns to Work.



THE Student, having learned where Treasure is,  
Must Work with Pick and Spade to make it his.



THE Shadow he pursued and proved it Naught.  
The Bird that cast it down, he never sought.

## OF SCIENCE

OUR World's a splendid School; then shall  
we nod  
Above her Book, or learn the Laws of  
God?



HIS Art or Science crowns the Happy One  
Who finds a Use for what Men thought  
had None.



THE Men that move the World, are they  
that try  
To learn the true "Because" of every  
"Why."



THE Poison Weeds and Tares that Earth  
produces  
Are changed to Blessings when we learn  
their Uses.



THERE is no Height that Man shall fail  
to climb,  
No Task he cannot do, with Toil and  
Time.

OF STUDY

FOR Drowsy Dream the Easy-Chair is  
sweet;  
For Thought or Study choose a Harder  
Seat.



To gather Knowledge, roam;  
To use it, bide at home.



ALL Science had its Errors in the Past.  
'Tis better Error should come First than  
Last.



To draw forth Wise Replies,  
Your Questions must be Wise.



THOUGH One may find a Truth unknown  
before,  
To teach that Truth to All needs many  
more.

## OF BOOKS

READ all the Books on every Shelf,  
But do your Thinking for yourself.



A BOOK, though mainly as the Writer  
makes it,  
Is also largely as the Reader takes it.



THE Book's ill writ that needs, whoever  
penned it,  
Another Book to make you Comprehend  
it.



YOU say that you have gone all through  
The Book; but has it gone through you?



BOOKSHELVES are best no higher than  
your Head,  
And Books should look as if they had been  
Read.

OF PRETENCE

IF the Fool said naught whatever  
He would be no Fool, but Clever.



THE Painted Screen and Hypocrite display  
Fronts far more fair than what they hide  
away.



AFFECT a Quality, and you confess  
That Quality is one you don't Possess.



ADMIT your Ignorance, and few will  
blame you;  
Pretend to Knowledge, and the World will  
shame you.



BE This or That when Things are said  
or done.  
Both Rain and Snow have Friends, but  
Slush has None.

## OF TEMPTATION

THE Tempter was never so lacking in  
Grace  
As to enter the Door that was Shut in his  
Face.



LIKE Children taking peeps at Pantry  
Shelves,  
We think we're Tempted when we Tempt  
Ourselves.



HE flew among the Crows; then was it  
not  
The Blackbird's fault, alone, that he was  
shot?



GIVE not the Daily Cobweb that enables  
The Habit Witch to Twist her Binding  
Cables.



How slyly Slothful Habit saps the Will!  
The Camel's Kick, though soft, is  
deadly, still.

---

OF FAULTS

YOU know your Virtues well enough, no  
doubt;  
Your Faults are what you need to hear  
about.



WHO keeps Bad Company for Gain or  
Fun,  
Increases that Bad Company by One.



"LUCK" and "Guess" are sorry Scouts;  
"Map" and "Compass" have no Doubts.



WHO loiters on an Errand may be able  
To hurry if his Supper's on the Table.



THOUGH Hand be firm and Pencil Point  
be fine,  
A Crooked Ruler means a Crooked Line.

## OF CONSCIENCE

THIS World would be a different Sort of  
Place  
If Men feared Conscience as they fear  
Disgrace.



THE taut Rope holds the Bull; but  
stronger than  
Twelve Ropes, his Word of Honor holds  
a Man.



SELL not your Conscience; thus are Fet-  
ters wrought.  
What is a Slave but One who can be  
Bought?



THOUGH Courts of Law may fail to curb  
Transgression,  
The Court of Conscience always is in Ses-  
sion.



WITH Emptied Hands we Come to Him  
Serene  
Who asks, not "Were they Full?" but  
"Are they Clean?"



OF REPROOF

A DEADLY Creeper, ever self-renewing,  
Is Unreproved, Successful Evil-doing.



RUNNING Fast is vain, O Strong One,  
When the Road you're on's the Wrong  
One.



WHEN Something's Wrong don't call it  
Right  
For fear of seeming Impolite.



THE Three Great Sins to which our Woes  
are traced  
Are Cruelty and Laziness and Waste.



SHE loves her Children best who gently  
checks them:  
The Hen hurts not her Chickens when she  
pecks them.

**OF JUSTICE**

**T**HOUGH you are Sure, before you Chide  
Be sure to hear the Other Side.



**U**NFLINCHING bear Injustice when you  
must,  
And let it teach you Not to Be Unjust.



**F**ORCE rules with Wrong  
Till Right grows strong.



**“O**UR Cause is Just!” so all Men say  
“God send us Victory!” But long  
I look for One who dares to pray,  
“God send Defeat if I am Wrong!”

OF APOLOGY

TO own a Fault is but to say,  
"I'm Wiser Now than Yesterday."



ADMITTING Error clears the Score  
And proves you Wiser than before.



REDRESS remains a Debt that must be met;  
Apology, alone, does not atone.



ALL sometimes Err; his Wisdom will  
suffice  
Who never makes the Self-same Error  
Twice.



FORGIVE completely. They whose Words  
recall  
Forgiven Faults, have not forgiven All.

## OF EXPLANATIONS

OF all Excuses this is most forbid:

“I did the Thing because the Others  
did.”



THE Cows are in the Corn and there they  
browse;

But, since your Fence was down, why  
blame the Cows?



MEN often think they do not Care to do  
The Deeds they really do not Dare to  
do.



TWO Little Things, a Match and a Mouse  
Kindled the Fire that burned the Big  
House.



WINNING, never Boast; and, Losing,  
Never do the least Excusing.

OF DUTY

GOD's Sentinel are you, of all the Host  
Assigned this Duty; will you quit your  
Post?



YOU owe the World for all you learn;  
In Payment you should Teach in turn.



WHEN "Do no Evil" has been under-  
stood,  
Then learn the harder, braver rule, "Do  
Good."



GAINING Strength and Self-Control,  
Pay the Debt you owe your Soul!



OUR Fathers speak; their Word endures:  
"We did our Work," they say; "do  
yours!"

## OF TRUTH

NOT, "Is it Old or is it New?"  
But, "Is it False or is it True?"



HAIL not the New as True While Proof  
is meager.  
Be Willing to Believe, but not Too Eager.



SEEK All the Truth lest Error seize you  
Fear not the Truth that does not please  
you.



BELIEVE what you have Proved. They  
most deceive  
Themselves who try to Prove what they  
Believe.



ADMITTING you 'don't know, is going  
The First Step on the Road to Knowing

OF FALSEHOOD

“THEY SAY” is passing by—  
Own Brother to a Lie.



FALSEHOOD is Poison—dangerous when  
placed  
In Truth enough to hide the Bitter Taste.



WHO Knows what he is Told, must know  
A Lot of Things that Are Not So.



THROUGH Haste a Hundred Errors  
throng;  
The First Swift News is mostly Wrong.



TELL me what you *Know* is True;  
I can *Guess* as well as you.

**OF GREED**

To Men of Greed, however great their  
Store,  
"Enough" is always "Just a Little More."



THE Pool that Gets and never Gives again  
Becomes a Stagnant, Pestilential Fen.



If all would cease to gratify their Greeds,  
But few would fail to satisfy their  
Needs.



SCHEME not to make what's Another's  
your own;  
Be not a Dog for the sake of a Bone.



THE Reign of Self shall end when Men  
shall heed  
Less what they Gain than what they Lose  
by Greed.



---

OF GIVING

BE generous, yet not too free;  
Don't give the Fox the Henhouse Key.



NOR what you Get, but what you Give  
Is that which proves your Right to Live.



SHALL any Man in Utter Blindness  
Repent of having done a Kindness?



SAY not, "God help you!" when your  
Brother needs,  
But let God help him through your kindly  
Deeds.



A GIFT that's given hesitating  
Is not a Gift, but Bought with Waiting.

## OF WEALTH

BLIND is he as any Bat that flitters  
Who can only see the Thing that Glit-  
ters.



THE Millionaire is Needy, I am not;  
For I need Nothing while he needs a  
Lot.  
Shall he be held the Richer of the Two  
Whose Wealth is great—or he whose  
Wants are few?



WE sigh for what we've Lost or vainly  
Groped for,  
But not for what we've neither Had nor  
Hoped for.



LITTLE, hobbling on his Crutch,  
Hurries to the Side of Much.

OF VALUES

BANK Paper needs a Stamp to give it  
Worth;  
True Gold has Value as it comes from  
Earth.



THE Sturdy Pin's chief Worth lies in its  
Head;  
The Needle's in its trailing Freight of  
Thread.



TO own and honor Greatness, giving  
Weight  
To Worth alone, is near to being Great.



WHO will try to catch the Hare  
When the Deer is standing there?



TO lose a Part may save the loss of All.  
A Stumble oftentimes prevents a Fall.

## OF HELPFULNESS

AN Ounce of Aid is worth a Ton of Sor-  
row;  
So help him Now, don't pity him To-  
morrow.



SELF-SACRIFICE is Noble, it is true,  
But Sacrifice Yourself, not Others too.



IT brought no Recompense; and yet the  
Day  
You spent on Others was not Thrown  
Away.



THOUGH right it is to *give* Thanks,  
True Gratitude will *live* Thanks.



BOTH Himself and Others, he  
Serves right well who Plants a Tree.

OF SERVICE

BUILDING, forging, ploughing, painting,  
weaving,  
Grudge not Giving More than you're Re-  
ceiving.



Do Small Things well; and Great Things,  
half-begun,  
Will crowd your Doorway begging to be  
'done.



No Man may hope Return from all he  
sows.  
Forbear not Planting Corn for Fear of  
Crows.



DON'T be classed as Idle Freight.  
Work your Passage! Pull your Weight!



"MAN's Life is all-too-brief!" Man  
writes in sorrow;  
Yet Man will sigh, "I wish it were To-  
morrow!"

## OF FOOD

CAKE will tempt the Amply Fed;  
What the Hungry want is Bread.



THE Cat may look at a King, they say,  
But rather would look at a Mouse at  
play.



SOME praise my Scarlet-berried Bitter-  
sweet,  
While others ask me, "Is it Good to Eat?"



COME not late when the Roast is Done.  
Why should Seven wait for One?



THE Cat that always wears Silk Mittens  
Will catch no Mice to feed her Kittens.

OF HEALTH

MEN rightly held, when yet the World  
was young,  
That in the Sun a Charm of Health is  
hung.



ONE Strives for Health and cures his  
Body's Ills;  
Another Mopes and gathers Doctors'  
Bills.



EACH Heart should have a little Secret  
Bin,  
But only Wholesome Things should lie  
therein.



TWO kinds of things that should not vex  
a Man,  
Are Those he cannot help—and Those he  
can.



OH, numberless Mischances are the Share  
Of him who is Too Lazy to Take Care!

**OF PROCRASTINATION**

LET not Today, procrastinating, borrow  
One single Precious Hour of Tomorrow.  
row.



IT will not 'do Itself; while you delay,  
The Task grows harder; put it through  
Today!



TODAY is all your own;  
Tomorrow, God's alone.



IN Putting Off your Tasks and Ruining  
them  
You Waste more Time than you would  
Spend in Doing them.



A MAN consumes the Time you make him  
Wait  
In thinking of your Faults—so don't be  
late!



OF LUCK

THE Hen that Roosted High and didn't  
Cluck  
Escaped the Fox—that wasn't wholly  
Luck.



HE won Success. They said his Luck pre-  
vailed;  
Yet, oh, how often he had Tried and  
Failed!



BY Luck the Wheel of Fortune may be  
turned,  
But Solid Reputation must be Earned.



FORTUNE does not Give, but Sells;  
Some buy Eggs and some buy Shells.



WHO scans the Ground may find a Golden  
Purse.  
Who looks around will find a Universe.

## OF COUNSEL

WHO takes Advice of Each and Every-  
one,  
Is just as blind as he that harks to None.



REASONS and Rules, Reasons and Rules;  
The First for the Wise and the Second  
for Fools!



LET those who Win tell *What* To Do,  
And those who Fail, What *Not* To Do.



IF what you Are you seek to Know, good  
Youth,  
Just Ask Yourself—and Tell Yourself the  
Truth.



BEYOND a Doubt you know what *He*  
should do.  
Perhaps He has as Wise a Plan for *You*.

OF POLITICS

ALL Demagogues depend on Witless  
Votes;

For Sheep, as Shepherds know, will follow  
Goats.



THE Statesman whom a Nation most  
reveres  
is he that Leads, not he that Domineers.



CONFUSION and Calamity are bred  
Where the Head Figure is a Figure-  
head.



RULES and Laws, however Men shall  
make them,  
some will Keep them, some will always  
Break them.



WOULD you, when Men in hostile Ranks  
are thronged,  
be with the Right? Be always with the  
Wronged.

## OF GLORY

LET Monuments be raised to those alone  
Who need no Monuments of Bronze or  
Stone.



No Joy is like the Joy of Fame,  
No Heat is like the Heat of Shame.



WHAT Man was he, so Mighty, Brave  
and Clever,  
Who first proclaimed, "My Name shall  
live Forever!"



THE Crown of Fame returns to them  
Who put aside that Diadem.



THE Trumpet Note of Fame a Herald  
heeds  
But as a Call to do still nobler Deeds.

OF MAGNANIMITY

How valiantly the buzzing Gnat defies  
The Eagle—who disdains to swoop on  
Flies!



He that in Peace and War best serves the  
State  
Loves Greatness, not the Fame of Being  
Great.



SURE Proof of Worth it is, to know  
And grant the Merits of a Foe.



All owe their World for Talents, good  
or better;  
The Greatest Genius is the Greatest  
Debtor.



By Valiant Knights the Selfsame Deeds  
are done  
Before the Eyes of Many—or of None.

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## OF COMPLAINING

STOP pitying yourself with "O dear me!  
And learn how much more cheerful Life  
can be.



PURSUE no Sorrow; if you 'do,  
It may turn back and live with you.



THE Sun, the Grumbler knows, is Partial  
too;  
It hides its Face from Him and shines for  
You!



FORBEAR to pet your Grievances; don't  
let them  
Corrode your Soul; they'll die if you Forget  
get Them.



GRIEVE not your Heart for any Disappointment;  
No Fly can spoil the whole big Jar of  
Ointment.

OF HARDIHOOD

STRENGTH and Zest are Manhood's Measures;  
Hardships, gayly borne, are Pleasures.



THE Thing that irked him, so the Oyster found,  
Became a Pearl when Brightness wrapped it round.



SOME little Hardship makes the Spirit bold.  
The Finest Trout are found where Streams run Cold.



I'VE reaped what others sowed; then shall I weep  
Because not all my Sowings I may reap?



LIKE that Rare Stone of Alchemists of old,  
Good Humor turns the Dross of Life to Gold.

## OF VIGOR

LET Sluggards boast of Feats that they  
have Seen!

I'd rather Play One Game than Watch  
Fifteen.



ONE Hour of Gallant Striving up the Hill  
Is worth a Hundred Years of Standing  
Still.



SIX Miles a Day on Foot will do you far  
More good than Twice a Hundred in  
a Car.



IT is not well, as hardy Trampers know,  
To start too Fast when you have Far  
to Go.



TRUE Sport will never fail to train  
Not Arm alone, but also Brain.



OF DAYS

MONDAY Morning, fair or bleak,  
Holds the Key to all the Week.



GOLDEN Sunlight, Moonlight pale,  
Day and Night, are not for sale.



EACH Day of Life should be a Whole;  
Each Forward Step should reach some  
Goal.



AN April Rain that wakes the Fruitful  
Mold  
Is Richer than the Ocean's Breadth in  
Gold.



WHERE No One Sees, the Dew as brightly  
glistens;  
The Bird sings just as well where No One  
Listens.

## OF FARMING

THE Boldest Farmer heeds the Cautious  
Rule  
To stand Behind the Bull, Before the  
Mule.



THE Early Sower will not need to borrow  
Of him who plans to sow his Feld To-  
morrow.



HAVE Plow and Harrow, Spade and  
Scythe,  
Or Sword and Spear made Old Earth  
blithe?



WORK well and wait; Impatience spoils  
the Sowing;  
Don't dig up Seeds to see if they are  
Growing.



DRY your Hay before you Pile the Stack;  
Mend the Hole before you Fill the  
Sack.

OF ILL MANNERS

ALL Men are worth your Observation;  
Not all are worth your Imitation.



HUNGRY Hogs that gorge on Acorns  
brown,  
Look not Up to see Who shook them  
'down.



THE Pig that wallows in the Mud, anon  
Seeks Something Clean to scrape him-  
self upon.



To him who says Just What He Likes,  
'twill fall  
To hear Some Things He Doesn't Like  
at all.



IT was, the Hornet thought, a merry Jest  
To Sting—and that was why we Burned  
the Nest.

## OF TOUCHINESS

THOSE Testy Souls whom every Word of-  
fends,  
Like Porcupines and Nettles, have no  
Friends.



IF Everyone is slighting You Alone,  
The Fault is always, possibly, your own.



HE pelts each Dog that barks at him, and  
so  
Has Time for Naught but finding Stones  
to throw.



DISLIKES may whet your Wit, but leave  
you lonely;  
True Happiness is found in Loving, only.



WHEN in comes Doubt,  
Love goes out.

OF TRIFLES

THAT Trifles make Perfection must not  
stifle  
The Truth that High Perfection is no  
Trifle.



EACH small Grain that helps its fellow  
Fills the Bin with Barley yellow.



THE Part you play, however small,  
Is greater far than None at All.



HE wish'd to do what he should  
And did as much as he could.



IF Nuts are given, who rebels  
Because he has to Crack the Shells?

## OF PRAYER

FORGETTING God all Day, Men deem it  
right  
To ask Him to remember them at Night.



"IF Prayers of Dogs were heard," the  
Arabs say,  
"What Showers of Bones would fall from  
Heaven this Day!"



FOR Mercy on Ourselves we pray, my  
Brothers;  
Then Justice, only, dare we ask for  
Others?



THE Weakling merely Prays God;  
The Stronger Soul Obeys God.



IN Work or Sport, at grips with Grief or  
Sin,  
Pray not for Victory, but Strength to Win.

OF LOFTY THEMES

BEGIN it well, and know  
That God will end it so.



THE Reefs that Polyyps rear, the Cliffs  
untrod,  
The Towers of Men,—alike are Works of  
God.



How shall he stand before the Throne  
Who tried to climb to Heaven—Alone?



THE Goal may be the Same, the Roads  
Diverse;  
Because my Way is Different is it Worse?



TRUTH is not cloaked, though Truth  
eludes our Sight;  
If God's Own Face seems hid, 'tis hid in  
Light.

## OF CRITICISM

GREAT Works demand Great Critics:  
it well

To Measure Ocean with an Oyster Shell



THE Song the Singer made became th  
dearer

To him who sang, because it pleased th  
Hearer.



# OLD IRISH PROVERBS



## OLD IRISH PROVERBS

### OF THE FARM

A FARMER on his Feet, the World agrees,  
Is taller than a Prince upon his Knees.



COINS are round and roll away;  
Fertile Ground is there to stay.



MORE Health is gained by wearing out  
Shoe-leather,  
Than comes from all the Doctors put together.



THE House without a Dog, a Cat, or  
Child,  
Knows naught of Cheer, or Laughter  
sweet and wild.

## OF MAIDENS

BLACK though the Berry, yet sweet it may  
be.

Dark is my Lassie, yet bonny to me.



THE young man's heart is tender; it needs  
but little care  
To bring him to the Churchyard when his  
Love is lying there.



"PERHAPSES" never helped to boil the  
Pot,  
And every "Maybe" has its "Maybe Not."



"I HEAR a Cow; and where a Cow is,  
there  
Will be some slip of Womankind; and  
where  
A Woman is, Temptation, too, will be;  
This," quoth the Saint, "is not the place  
for me!"

OF HIGH MINDS

HE shall win the Upward Race  
Who makes the Top his Breathing-  
place.



COME," said the King, "we will sail to  
Farthest Ind."  
Wait till I let you!" laughed the rude  
North Wind.



JUDGE not the Ragged Boy or Shaggy  
Foal,  
Unless your Eye can see their Distant  
Goal.



BY him that hath a brave and lofty Mind,  
No Strife is either Courted or Declined.



'TWOULD be something for One, but for  
two it is Dearth!"—  
s Great Alexander remarked of the  
Earth.

## OF CANINES

THE Pup that runs to Everybody's call  
Will Travel much, but won't Arrive at  
all.



"ALMOST-BUT-DIDN'T," timid or slack  
Is the very worst Dog in the Fox-hun-  
ter's Pack.



YOUR Teeth, oh, Gray Wolf, may be  
sharp and white,  
But do not show them if you dare not bite



THOUGH, ranging wide, he needs must run  
much faster,  
The Dog comes home no sooner than his  
Master.



FEW Feathers lie about the Rocks  
Whose Cavern hides the Sleepy Fox

OF LAGGARDS

BOATMAN, ask not what to do;  
Pull the Oar that's nearest you!



WHY work at Nothing, like the Wee Pig's  
Tail  
That Wiggles all day long to no avail?



THE Oarsmen's Heads keep nodding to  
and fro,  
But that is not what makes the Galley go.



THE Looker-on who takes his rest  
Can always steer the Boat the best.



AH, most unfair are Fortunes tithes!  
Bad Reapers never get Good Scythes.

## OF FISHERMEN

THE Man who day by day bears forth the  
Net,  
Will catch a Fish ere many Suns are set.



STORM-BOUND Fishers while they wait  
Mend their Nets or cut their Bait.



WAIT not to see what other Anglers get;  
He takes the Fish who keeps his own  
Hook wet.



A SALMON from the River or the Mere,  
An Oak-staff from the Forest, or a Deer  
From thicket, heath or hillside—these be  
named  
Three Thefts of which no Man was yet  
ashamed.



OF SUNDRY THINGS

ALERT Old Rats are harder far  
To catch, than Kittens think they are.



WHERE Faintheart dare not, Strongheart  
will;  
The Blunt Tool proves the Workman's  
Skill.



SAID Conan when set with the Devils to  
dwell,  
“ 'Tis hard upon me, but 'tis harder on  
Hell!”



A GOOD done to a Dotard old,  
A Good done to a Villain cold,  
A Good done to a Babe, they say,  
Are Three Goods wholly cast away.

## OF SUNDRY THINGS

I THREW a Stone in the Turnip Field:  
The Pig I hit was the Pig that Squealed.



ONE Mend-fault 'does more good  
Than Twenty Spy-faults could.



LIKE Summer Clouds, True-hearted Men  
Receive Earth's Gifts to give again.



LIFT up your Song  
And march with Courage stronger;  
For thought the Way is long,  
The Day is longer.

OF OPEN COUNTRY

OH, leave the Hut to the squeaking  
Mouse!

There is no Smoke in the Skylark's House!



HIGH is the Head of the Stag  
That stands on his own Hill-crag.



THREE Neighbors ever good  
Are Mountain, Stream, and Wood.



THE Deer, upon the Hill of a Dream of  
Grace,  
Is awkward in the Village Market-place.



NIGHT is the Herdsman of the Vast  
Who brings all Creatures home at last.

THE Task is done! so, laying down the  
Pen,  
To God's Own Hills I lift mine Eyes  
again.

THE END







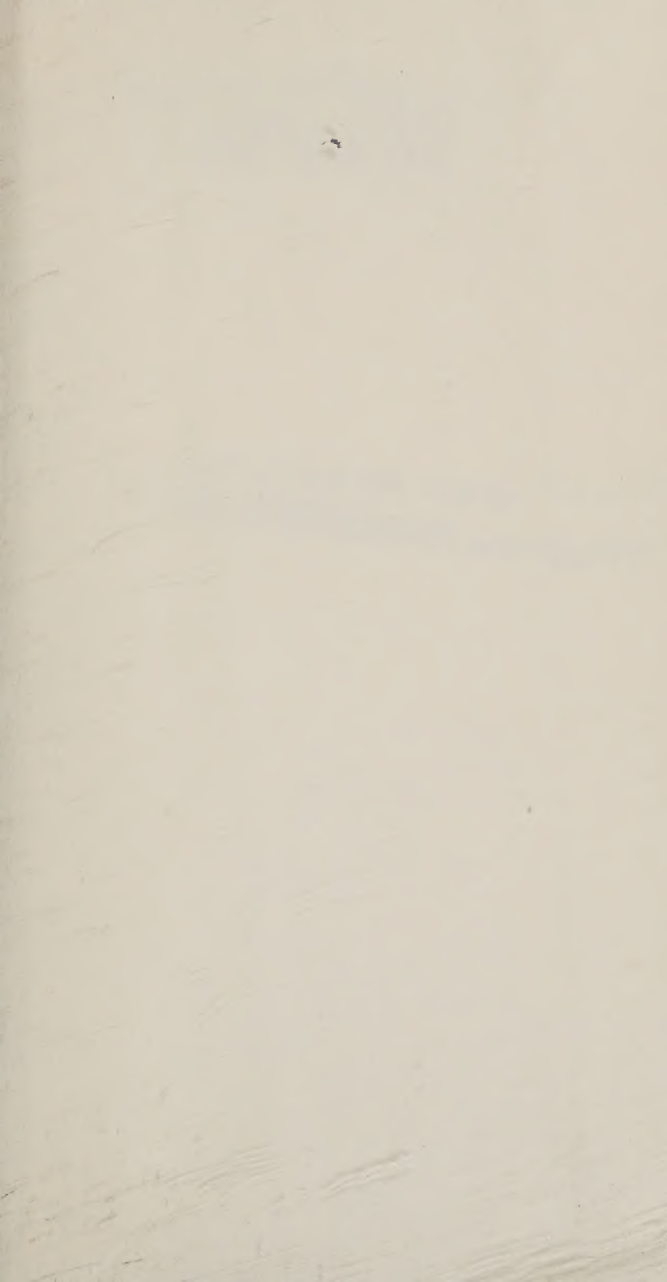
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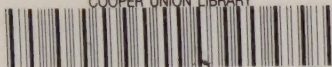








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